Message Text

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-----034581 060959Z/21

R 060123Z MAY 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA AMCONSUL TORONTO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS STATE 115978

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAO, AFIN

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW: "U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS IN CANADA"

- 1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE GAO OF SUBJECT REVIEW WHICH WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANADA IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCHEDULE GIVEN BELOW. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO REVIEW OVERALL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF STREAMLINING THE PROGRAM AND PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES FOR FULFILLING THE U.S. OBLIGATION TO FOREIGN NATIONAL RETIREES. A SIMILAR STUDY WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE PHILIPPINES EARLY THIS YEAR. TEAM WISHES TO MEET WITH EMBASSY AND CONSULATE PERSONNEL AND CANADIAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY OFFICIALS.
- 2. THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR TWO-MAN GAO TEAM CONSISTING OF MESSRS. MAURICE S. BLAIS AND THOMAS D. NEWBY FOLLOWS: UNCLASSIFIED

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MAY 24 - ARRIVE TORONTO FROM MEXICO AND REMAIN OVERNIGHT.

MAY 25 - ARRIVE OTTAWA FROM TORONTO FOR COURTESY CALL ON EMBASSY AND BRIEFING;

MAY 27 TO 30 - MONTREAL. RETURN TO U.S. MAY 30 IN AFTER-

NOON.

DETAILS CONCERNING TRAVEL PLANS WILL BE SUBJECT SEPTEL. PLEASE RESERVE TWO SINGLE ROOMS WITH BATH FOR NIGHT OF MAY 24 IN TORONTO AND NIGHTS OF MAY 27 THROUGH 29 IN MONTREAL. NO ACCOMMODATIONS NEEDED FOR MAY 25. PLEASE CONFIRM RESERVATION AND NAME OF HOTEL. NO TRAVEL ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FOR TEAM.

3. IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE GAO AND TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE WITHIN GUIDELINES OF 4 FAM 930-934. QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS THAT SHOULD ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE REVIEW, PARTICULARLY REGARDING GAO ACCESS TO AND/OR RETENTION OF DEPARTMENT FILES OR DOCUMENTS, SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE GAO IS AWARE THAT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE AMBASSADOR, TO BE ARRANGED FOR BY THE EMBASSY AND AN EMBOFF TO ACCOMPANY, IF FEASIBLE. CHRISTOPHER

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